

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION OES-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2715

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7669

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR, TGEN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRESIDENTS OF AAAS AND NAS TO ARGENTINA

REF: STATE 229207

1. EMBASSY IS PLEASED THAT NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE PRESIDENT, PHILLIP HANDLER, MIGHT COME TO ARGENTINA AND POSSIBLY EVEN ACCOMPANY AAAS PRESIDENT DADDARIO ON HIS MISSION. VISIT BY LEADERS OF TWO OUTSTANDING U.S. PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS WOULD HAVE MAJOR AND POSITIVE IMPACTS. SUCH VISITS, COMING AS AN INDEPENDENT INITIATIVES, WOULD PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FOR ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS. PRESENCE OF DADDARIO AND HANDLER IN ARGENTINA WOULD UNDERSCORE SERIOUS CONCERN REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA WITHIN U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY.
2. EMBASSY CONCURS WITH SUGGESTION IN REFTTEL THAT PROPOSED AGENDA BE UPGRADED. WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENTAL ADVICE THAT DADDARIO AND HANDLER MEET WITH ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR IN U.S. TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF ARGENTINE EMBASSY'S ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH SENIOR GOA OFFICIALS SUCH AS PRESIDENT VIDELA, JUNTA MEMBERS MASSERA AND AGOSTI, MINISTER OF INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY AND CNEA CHAIRMAN

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CASTRO MADERO.

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT, HOWEVER, AGREE THAT TRIP SHOULD DEEMPHASIZE FACT FINDING. GOA OFFICIALS WOULD BE LESS RECEPTIVE TO SENIOR FOREIGN VISITORS WHO ARRIVE AND PRESENT PREDETERMINED JUDGMENT ON ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THAT TO PERSONS WHO COME TO INQUIRE. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT

APPROPRIATE SCENARIO FOR DADDARIO/HANDLER VISITS WOULD BE TO SPEND FIRST PART OF THEIR WEEK'S VISITS IN ARGENTINA MEETING WITH THE FAMILIES OF DISAPPEARED SCIENTISTS, OFFICIALS OF LOCAL PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS, CHURCH AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. ON THE BASIS OF TWO OR THREE DAYS OF "FACT FINDING", WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE A TRIP TO CORDOBA TO VISIT FAMILIES THERE OF DISAPPEARED SCIENTISTS, DADDARIO/HANDLER COULD BEGIN CALLS ON SENIOR GOA OFFICIALS. THEY WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO DRAW ON THEIR INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT REGARDING THE FACTS AND SHARE THEIR CONCLUSIONS AS WELL AS PRESENT THE CONCERNS OF THE U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY REGARDING THE WELFARE OF SCIENTISTS AND SCIENTIFIC FREEDOM IN ARGENTINA.

4. GIVEN HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS OF PLANNED DADDARIO/HANDLER VISIT FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE AS NEEDED WOULD BE PROVIDED BY EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER HARRIS. WE FEEL IT IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT HIGH LEVEL CALLS BE REQUESTED AND CONFIRMED THROUGH AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL IN WASHINGTON.
CHAPLIN

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